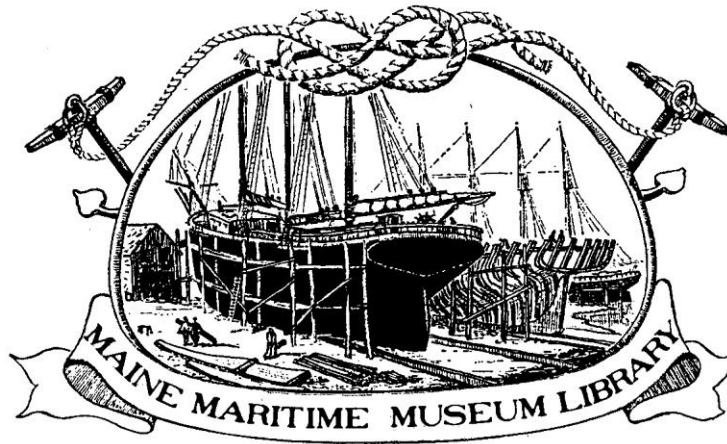


**Maine Maritime Museum Library**

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**Inventory for  
Manuscript Collection  
MS - 29**

**George Fisher Account Books**

**Circa 1883-1916**

by  
Elisabeth Meier  
April 2018

½ box  
0.2 linear feet  
*Accession no. 68.2867 A-C*

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## **Abstract**

### **George Fisher (1839-1916)**

#### **Account books, circa 1883-1916**

½ box

Ship chandler and broker in Bath, Maine

This collection consists of three account books kept by George Fisher: a cash book, a ledger, and an index to an earlier ledger. The index lists Fisher's customers when he ran a ship chandlery in Bath, Maine. The cashbook and ledger document Fisher's lending, income from personal investments, and detailed domestic expenses from the last two decades of his life.

Gift of Richard H. Johnson.

MS-029. Accession #68.2867 A-C.

Finding aid (folder level control) in repository.

#### **Added entries—persons:**

Fisher, George (1839-1916)

#### **Added entries—key terms:**

Account books

Accounts, household

Bath, ME – Businesses

Bath, ME – Houses

Investments

Schooners

Ship chandlers

Ships – Owners

## **Acquisition**

This collection was donated to the museum by Richard H. Johnson in 1969. Johnson lived at 926 Washington Street in Bath, the same house that George Fisher's sister, Mary, occupied until her death in 1942.

## **Restrictions**

There are no restrictions on this collection.

## **Physical Condition**

The books are in fairly good condition. There is some wear on the covers and deterioration in the red leather, but the bindings are good and the text is legible.

## **Related Materials**

More of George Fisher's personal financial papers can be found in MS-12 along with a variety of documents related to his sister, Augusta (Fisher) Work and her daughter, Ruth.

### Historical Note

George Fisher (1839-1916) was the son of Addison D. Fisher, a sea captain, and Ruth Riggs. He and his sisters Augusta (1841-1924) and Mary (1850-1942) were born in Arrowsic, Maine, though the family moved to Bath when all three were children.

George Fisher began his career as a clerk at the S.D. Bailey ship chandlery on Front Street. Samuel D. Bailey made Fisher a partner in the store in 1869, then sold him the entire concern in 1872. Fisher operated the chandlery under his own name until 1885. At that point, he started a second career as a ship broker. On the side, he lent sizable sums of money, in the form of bills receivable, to borrowers like Arthur Sewall, William T. Donnell, and the Hyde Windlass Company. Fisher retired from business in the early years of the twentieth century.

George Fisher never married. He maintained a respectable social life as a member of the Sagadahoc Club, the Kennebec Yacht Club, and the Solar Lodge of Masons. He lived in the family house at 50 Pearl Street with his sister Mary, also unmarried, until his death in 1916.

### Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of three account books kept by George Fisher, a ship Chandler and broker in Bath. The first, "Index to Ledger E," indexes a volume that has not survived. It was begun in the early 1880s during the last years that Fisher operated his chandlery. It lists a wide range of customers from Bath and nearby towns, including shipbuilders, captains, and other local businessmen. It also lists the ships, schooners, and other vessels which maintained accounts at the chandlery, in addition to Fisher's own private investments.

The remaining two books are a cash book and ledger ('F'). These contain Fisher's personal accounts from 1898 to 1910. They record his private investments, in the form of shares in a handful of vessels and a much broader array of stocks and bonds from railroads, banks, and municipal utilities, as well as his extensive network of loans. They also provide a very detailed picture of domestic life, including the arrival of utilities, timing and nature of interior decoration, wages for household servants, and family Christmas presents.

### Box and Folder List

Box	Folder	
1	1	Index to Ledger 'E,' circa 1883-1898
	2	Cash Book, 1898-1910
	3	Ledger 'F,' 1898-1916